3-3-10

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VALLEY STAR

the independent student newspaper

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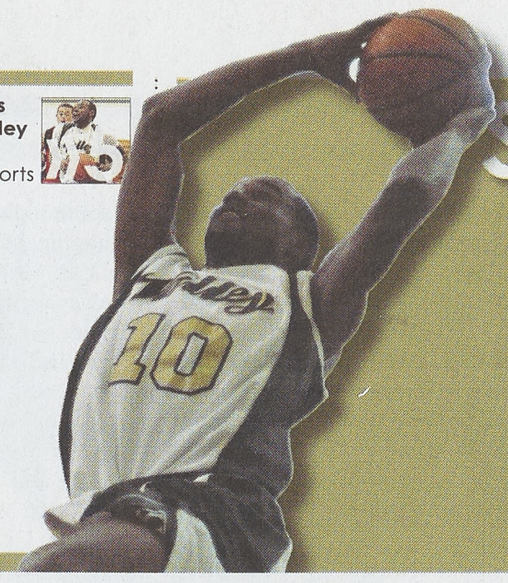

SEMI-FINALS

Riverside defeats Valley 94-59 in the second round of the regional playoffs Saturday night.

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ANGELA BEACH | VALLEY STAR

Big Blue Sky

Planetarium Director Robert Falk looks at a projection of Saturn. Falk has helmed the facility and the school's astronomy classes since 1996. The planetarium courses have gained popularity in the past few semesters due to it's recent 2008 renovations.

VALLEY STAR CORRECTION

In our news story last issue regarding Professor Torquato, the article stated that he was arrested on campus, in fact he turned himself in after being contacted by authorties. There were no arrests made.

ONLINE SLIDESHOW

Photos of the Week

Go online to see all photos of life on campus.

ONLINE GALLERY

Cupcake Shootout

Our photographer's take on the sweet treats.

These features and more can be found in full @ www.lavalleystar.com

CONTINUANCE FOR TORQUATO

After his pretrial hearing last Thursday, Professor Torquato's hearing has been pushed back to March 15.

JOSH SPENCE & JAMIE NORRIED
VALLEY STAR EDITORS

Valley College Associate Professor Richard Torquato received a pretrial continuance for the fifth consecutive time at Los Angeles Superior Court on Tuesday. His next court appearance is March 15.

Torquato is accused of three charges of sexual harassment and has been on leave since the latter part of the Fall 2009 semester.

According to Detective Richard Roberts, who is assigned to the Community College Bureau, Torquato turned himself in to the Van Nuys court as a result of an arrest warrant that was issued Nov. 17, 2009.

"The Sheriff's department acted quickly as did the staff of Valley College," said Roberts on Feb. 25. "The policies in place at Valley College worked well in this situation, and all appropriate actions were taken to ensure safety for the victim as well as the student population. Due to the swift actions of the college in regard to this matter, there was no continuing threat to students in any way once the allegation was made."

Valley Deputy Ricky Baker stated in last week's article in the Valley Star, "Anytime we're arresting somebody, there's probably some danger to the community." Baker also commented, "And yes, the arrest was made here on campus."

Baker clarified Tuesday that Torquato was not arrested on campus by saying, "I think there was miscommunication somewhere along the line." Baker continued, "He [Torquato] was contacted here on campus, that must have been the part I misunderstood."

Valley's Office of Compliance is also investigating the psychology professor.

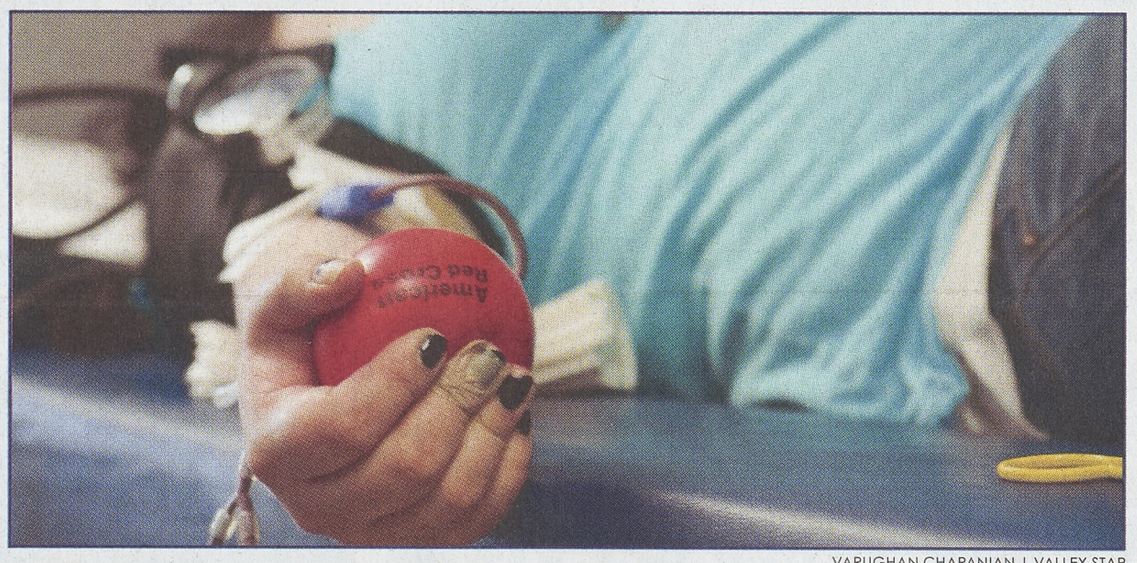
Vice President of Academic Affairs Sandy Mayo said Tuesday, "We are working very hard to preserve the rights of everyone… we want to do right by everyone." Mayo added, "For every faculty member (we hire) we do background checks and we call and check references."

Torquato appeared in court last Thursday for a pretrial hearing, which, for the fourth time, was continued to March 2 at Los Angeles Superior Court in Van Nuys.

The charges brought against Torquato are violations of Penal Code 243.4(E)(1), which involves sexual battery, Penal Code 647.6(A)(1), which is defined as molestation of any child under 18 years of age, and 273A(B), a charge of willfully causing a child to suffer any physical pain or mental suffering.

Torquato earned his bachelor's degree from Williamette University in Salem, OR and received a master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He was hired at Valley in 1999.

Lucas Thompson also contributed to this story.



VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN | VALLEY STAR

GOOD DEED - Blanka Diaz gives blood last Thursday during the Red Cross' blood drive. The drive took place in mobile vans outside of the Allied Health building.

BLOOD DRIVE DRAWS CROWD

Valley's Student Health Center and the American Red Cross teamed up to save lives by donating blood at last Thursday's blood drive.

KELLY DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Valley's Student Health Center and the American Red Cross joined efforts last Thursday to bring out the Blood Mobile and give students and faculty a chance to take an active role in saving the lives of others.

Katherine Ramirez and Antonio Rosales, armed with their donor cards, were among the flocks of students that swarmed the donor registration table.

"Knowing that it helps people that need it," Ramirez said, is enough to motivate her to give blood every chance she gets. Unfortunately, not everyone who stopped by the blood drive was as passionate as others about saving lives.

"I'm not just going to give out blood for no reason," said one girl whose excuses for not giving blood ranged from habitual pot smoking to insufficient weight.

The generosity of blood donors is integral to modern healthcare and many life-saving medical procedures. According to the ARC, every blood donation has the potential to save three lives.

"Giving blood is the easiest way in the world to save lives. I absolutely love it," said Alan Fowler, longtime donor and ARC volunteer who was running the registration table. "I've given 33 gallons of blood and 400 units of platelets so far."

Every year, the American Red Cross collects around 6.5 million units of blood from roughly 4 million donors throughout the nation. As the single largest supplier of blood, the ARC strives to provide relief to people in times of disaster and emergency.

"I am so thankful to the donors who gave their time and their gift," said Gwen, a recent blood recipient who was in need of a transfusion when she nearly died during childbirth.

In addition to the moral rewards of helping to save lives, students who participated in the blood drive were entered to win a spa package and given a coupon for a free appetizer at Mimi's Café.

Valley students will get another chance to donate Thursday, April 29 when the Blood Mobile returns. To ensure a safe donation, students should maintain healthy iron levels in the weeks leading up to donation by eating foods rich in iron, such as fish, poultry, red meat, beans and spinach. A good night's sleep, extra water consumption and a healthy meal are pertinent on donation day.

Students who have donated in the past at Valley blood drives should be very proud as the ARC will be honoring Valley's Student Health Center next month with the Give Award for having the greatest percentage increase in collected units from the previous year.

THE LOW DOWN

NO MORE TOYING AROUND

Several recalls from Toyota leave consumers skeptical.

CRISTINA SERRATO

Toyota, the world's leading car company, stands firm on shaky grounds in the aftermath of recent recalls.

James Lentz, president of Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc., issued an apology on behalf of the auto maker and promised to make amends with the American public by issuing recalls to more than 8.5 million vehicles as day one of two days of congressional hearings began.

The automaker's most recent safety issues are whats on trial, although these very same safety issues have been investigated by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration since 2003, after 39 complaints were issued by consumers stating the vehicles they drove had runaway acceleration. There were also reports of sticky accelerators, accelerators easily pinned down by floor mats and braking glitches in hybrid models. Several of these auto complaints have been linked to crashes, injury, and at least five U.S. deaths, with another 29 cur-

|See **COLUMN**, Page 2|

COLUMN

Continued from page 1

rently under investigation.

Although some Republicans are calling the current hearings "a witch hunt," or accusing the US government of bias, due to recent GM bailouts, many consumers are calling for reform at the NHTSA, although such reform would likely require legislation.

"I recently heard that the 'L.A. Times' referred to the hearings as a 'witch hunt'—it really is," commented Russ Kutrosky, Sales Manager of Hamer Toyota of Mission Hills. Kutrosky continued to say, "... especially after how the Firestone tires and Ford incidents were handled. Many people don't know that 90 percent of cars, the top sellers, are actually made here."

Analysts have predicted a loss of sales for the automaker and shares were down by two percent recently after a six day market "freefall" in January when the recall and safety issues were made public. Down 22 percent from January's 12 month high.

"This isn't damaging us as much as we thought it would," said Kutrosky. "We've been hit hard from the recession, not from this. At first, for the first three weeks, big time, but now we can't even tell an effect on sales. People understand we're a good company, they're loyal and not having any issues working with us."

In order to repent for putting sales in front of people, Toyota is offering longer service hours and safety recalls, which should total about $550 million per month in the US and Europe. But after a boasted savings of $100 million in a recent internal presentation entitled "Wins For Toyota--Safety Group," where a total of $235 million was saved by "negotiating" recalls, the automaker is not likely to go bottoms up.

"I have been a Toyota owner since '88 and I actually think poor of Toyota for putting consumers on the back burner over production and profit," said veteran Toyota owner Bridget Rodriguez. "However, I think that these are minor issues compared to how many cars are on the road. They should have addressed and resolved the issues sooner, but I trust the overall protection and brand name of Toyota and will buy Toyota again."

A senate committee planned a March 2 hearing in which Toyota Motor Corp. had a lot of explaining to do.

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ON THE ROAD TO SACRAMENTO

The ASU will send 25 stuents in the "March to March" protest

JONATHAN SEELEY
STAFF WRITER

Twenty-five Valley College students are taking an Associated Student Union-funded trip to Sacramento to meet with state legislators in an effort to protest cuts to education on March 22.

According to the Student Senate for California Community Colleges website, the plan is to march on the west steps of the state capital in Sacramento.

"It's called March in March, organized by state student government," said ASU Vice President Ian Coyne.

Coyne said the community and state college student government is attempting to recreate a previous year's "massively successful rally." He described last year's rally, which protested the proposed $8.6 billion cut from California's education system, as being more impromptu. Around 6,000 marched in that rally. The ASU wants to focus more on sending a smaller number of students who will be educated on the issues, and have them meet with legislators. The Valley College Political Action Committee will educate the 25 students on main talking points. The students will fly into Sacramento and stay in a hotel room for the night; using approximately $7000 worth of ASU funds.

"We are trying to recreate that [2009 rally] by bringing out the largest showing of community college and state college students...and get them out marching in solidarity to help avoid future budget cuts and more fee raises," said Coyne.

To read the complete story visit
www.lavalleystar.com

THE VALLEY STAR STAFF & INFO

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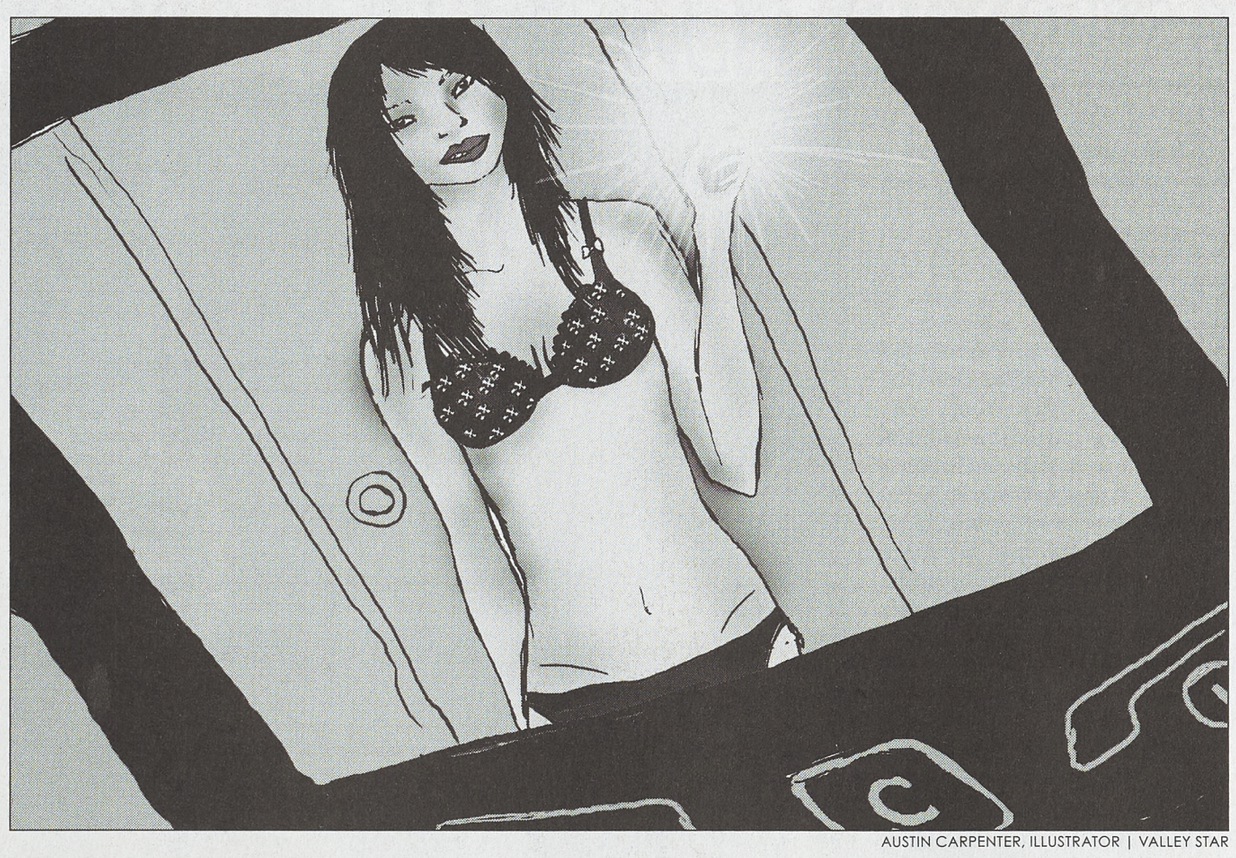
TO SEXT OR NOT TO SEXT

The erotic art of sexting has become a heated debate amongst parents, teens and law enforcement.

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER



AUSTIN CARPENTER, ILLUSTRATOR | VALLEY STAR

The erotic art of sexting has became a heated debate amongst parents, teens, and law enforcement.

American psychologist B.F Skinner once said, "The real problem is not whether machines think, but whether men do."

I couldn't agree more, especially when it comes to the brainless act of "sexting."

For those of you who don't know, "sexting" is the combination of the words "sex" and "text" to describe the act of sending sexually explicit and even pornographic pictures and messages via text message. The only required tool to "sext" is a cell phone with a camera and ability to receive text messages.

"It's okay to do it with someone you trust and are okay with," said Na'shea Brown, a registering Valley student. "Still you have to be really careful."

Many people don't think of the negative consequences that can come from "sexting." Consequences such as photos being leaked on the Internet or in public, jail time, expulsion from school, being labeled and registered as a sex offender and even violence or worse, suicide.

In May 2009 an Ohio teen killed herself after an ex-boyfriend forwarded nude photos of her to other teens. Vanessa Hudgens, star of "High School Musical" learned first hand the backlash of her stupidity, when her nude and erotic "sexting" photos surfaced in 2007, which she called "a lapse in judgement."

For some, "sexting" may be a "lapse in judgement," for minors, "sexting" is illegal. In every state it's considered child pornography; the distribution and receipt of such text messages is against the law. There have been court cases in Florida, Texas, Ohio and Pennsylvania which either the minor involved or the person receiving has had criminal charges filed against them. They are labeled as sex offenders and for a good part of the rest of their lives they must have a probation officer and register with the National Sex Offender Registry. A serious result for a momentary "lapse in judgement."

"It's necessary to have a warning, people don't realize the negative aspects [of sexting], I didn't even realize it until you brought it up," journalism major, Mordechai Friedman commented.

In order to combat the idiocy that is "sexting," one group, The Adolescence Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of North Carolina, is harnessing the same potential of text by allowing teens and young adults to text their Birds and Bees line with sex-related questions, while Thatsnotcool.com is running witty commercials featuring naked teens who speak about the reality and consequences of "sexting."

"Sending pics of privates is immature, the whole act is immature," laughed Rebecca Witt, psychology major. "It's disgusting and pointless."

Disgusting as "sexting" may be, it's a fad that according to Teen Research Unlimited, one in five teens participate in. With comedians like Wanda Sykes making light the issue of "sexting" and Ludacris' newest track called "Sexting," which features a monologue parody of the Tiger Woods scandal, I doubt that this is a fad that will soon dissipate. I do hope that more people will sext responsibly, and please, be over 18.

Cluttered Campus, Cluttered Mind

The halls at Valley College are less hallowed than they are grimy.

CARL ROBINETTE
STAFF WRITER

Rust stains drip down the cracked stucco walls of old dilapidated buildings. Sidewalks that look like they haven't seen a rake in years are covered in festering soggy leaves. If you have ever walked through Quad Park on campus at Valley College you may recognize this scene. What should be an enriching, inspiring environment, looks more like an abandoned shantytown. Some days it feels as though at any moment, tumbleweeds will roll by.

Many say that what happens inside the walls where the teaching takes place is what counts. But it's depressing to look at a campus in disrepair, and depression doesn't exactly facilitate learning, let alone motivate students.

"It's disgusting," said Pierce College student Manolo Hernandez about Valley. "I chose pierce over Valley because I'm afraid I'll catch some dingleberries or something."

Is it a lack of funding that has created the ghost town look on campus? If it is, then why is Valley working on major construction of new buildings if they can't afford to maintain what they've already got?

Granted, funds for construction and maintenance aren't coming from the same pockets, but when a new $46 million dollar Allied Health and Science Center that opened just two years ago is right next to run down bungalows that look like they've been out of service for a few more years than two, it calls into question campus priorities.

Thanks to Propositions A and AA passed in 2001 and 2003, along with Measure J in 2008, Valley has $286 million to spend on renovations, according to the college website. A slew of state-of-the-art buildings doesn't do students much good if they have to step over a cesspool to get in the door.

Of course responsibility for the mess can't be put entirely on the shoulders of the college. Cigarette butts, candy wrappers, and empty bags of chips didn't land on the ground by themselves. This can only be the doing of students.

Presumably, most of the students on campus are adults. Is it that difficult to walk twenty feet to the nearest trashcan to dump your snack wrappers? It's an institution populated by people seeking higher education, and we can't clean up after ourselves?

It's great that clubs like Eco Advocates and ASU have had campus clean-up days in the past to motivate students to keep our campus clean, but the very fact that programs like this are necessary is alarming in and of itself. If we don't have school pride we could at least have respect enough for each other to clean up after ourselves.

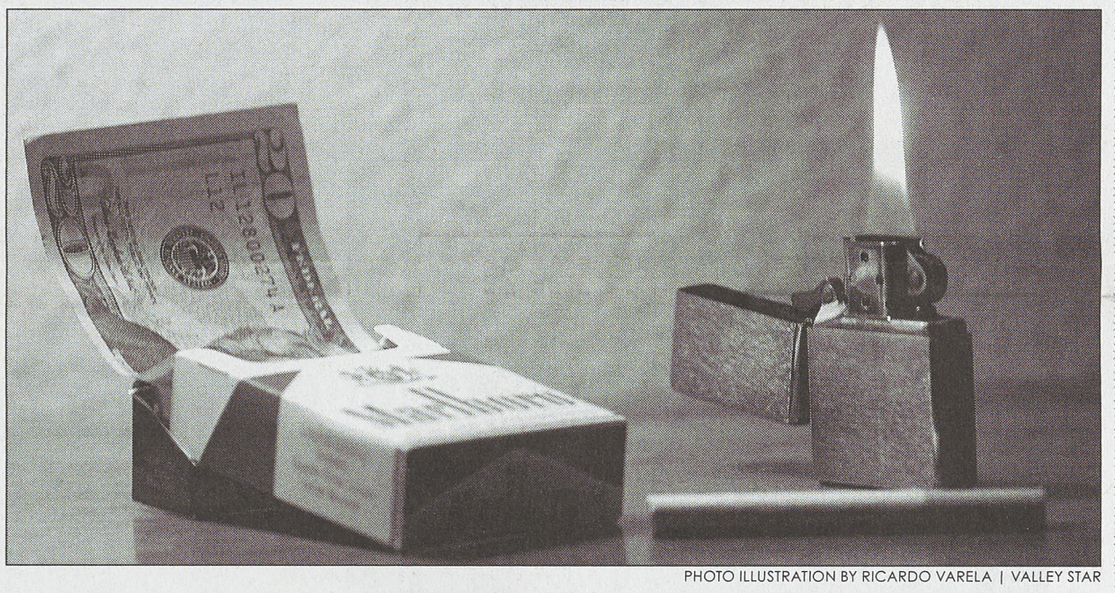


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RICARDO VARELA | VALLEY STAR

The Unaffordable Truth About Banning Cigarettes

A vice which has addicted millions for centuries may be our only way out of further economic downturn.

KATE HOLZHAUER
STAFF WRITER

There is a petition being circulated to ban the sale of cigarettes in California. While the smoking of cigarettes is indeed unhealthy, the idea of banning cigarette sales is unworkable on many levels.

The state of California brings in approximately $450 million per year with an 87 cent per pack cigarette tax. This $450 million would be sorely missed under any circumstances, but especially given the current state of the California budget.

Instead, why not raise the state tax on cigarettes? There is a $1 dollar per pack increase in state cigarette sales proposed for the November 2010 ballot. The proposition, proposed by California law firm Olson Hagel, & Fishburn, would raise over $600 million more in tax dollars each year. As proposed, the additional revenue from the first state cigarette tax increase in over a decade would help fund education, health and cancer initiatives, and anti-youth smoking campaigns. Additionally, the $1 tax increase would make cigarettes less affordable to minors, resulting in up to a 13.7 percent drop in youth smoking, according to the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

California has been a national leader in the fight for smoke-free public spaces, banning smoking in restaurants, bars, public parks, and recently even cars containing minors. Nearby Calabasas is said to have the toughest anti-smoking laws in the country, with smoking not allowed in almost any public space. There are undeniable reasons to restrict smoking.

Smoking is unhealthy. It pollutes the air, and it is addictive. But,banning the sale of cigarettes in the state of California, instead of creating a smoke-free state, would create a state of chaos, and a black market, much like it has in the state's prisons. The state of California banned cigarettes in prisons in 2005, but by 2007, packs of cigarettes were a fought-over commodity, going for up to $125 a pack, causing fights among inmates. If a black market environment can be created in heavily monitored prisons, how much harder will it be to control in a state of over 35 million individuals.

Rather than attempting to re-instate the failed ideas of prohibition, we should continue to allow Californians their vices and accept that, despite being unhealthy, allowing cigarette consumption would benefit us all.

THE SIMPLE TRUTH...

CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

Keep the fat, cut the profit mongering, keep the quality.

JAMIE NORRIED

Kaizen is a business philosophy about the continuous and incremental improvement in productivity or performance. In Japanese, "Change for the better."

Akio Toyoda, president of the world's largest automaker, has implemented this business strategy within his company in order to increase proficiency and profit in the downturn of global auto sales, but at the cost of quality and human lives.

In an effort to increase proficiency and cater to the public demand, Toyota has compromised the quality of their product. Unfortunately, many corporate manufacturers have adopted this technique of "lean manufacturing," thus creating the low-quality products we encounter daily.

"We pursued growth over the speed at which we were able to develop our people and our organization," Toyoda told the House Oversight Committee in his apology on Capitol Hill. "I regret that this has resulted in the safety issues described."

According to an article in Auto Design and Production Magazine, Toyota's Prius sales in 2001 totaled 15,556 in the US. As gas prices rose, people began trading in their gas-guzzlers for the new "green" hybrid, and Toyoda saw dollar signs. By 2009 sales had reached 520,000. To achieve this total, it had to increase its production to approximately 50,000 vehicles per year to keep up with US demand.

At a time when American automakers were grieving their sales figures, Toyota was expanding, creating more factories, and cutting costs by decreasing suppliers; thus increasing the impact of faulty parts.

Toyota announced in early February that it would recall 437,000 vehicles globally—133,000 Priuses and 14,500 Lexis vehicles in the US, according to Forbes.com. The recall will cost them billions of dollars. On top of that, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported 13 fatalities since Jan. 27, 2010. Aside from tarnishing their brand, Toyota is now facing a class-action lawsuit amongst several others.

This idea of "lean manufacturing" is like trimming the fat. When you trim the fat, you save money, and increase profit. But we Americans like the fat. We want our Big Mac the way it used to be—two big all-beef patties at a low price—which has more than tripled since its inception, while actually becoming smaller. We want big, fat patties and we want to drive our Priuses to get them, without the fear of dying in the drive-through.

When all is said and done, I hope President Toyoda finds his kaizen method worth the cost. And I truly hope that other manufacturers will take a cue this time, and shell out the extra buck to save a few in the long run.

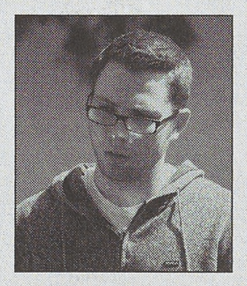
E-mail Jamie Norried at
j.norried@lavalleystar.com
Send general comments to
valleystar@lavalleystar.com

VALLEY VIEW | WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT FACULTY BEING REQUIRED TO COMPLETE SEXUAL HARASSMENT SENSITIVITY TRAINING?

"I think it's good. They should be able to deal with the sexual attitudes of different students."
- KAILYN SCIBERAS

"Whatever it is, it is up to the faculty."
- VINCE NELSON

"I find nothing wrong with that, because it's something that occurs on a daily basis."
- LARA SAIKALI



"I think it's fine, as long as we don't have to pay taxes on that, like if we have to pay extra fees on it."
- MARTIN DOHERTY

"I think it's a good idea so they know the rules, if something happens they can't say they didn't know."
- BRIAN RODRIGUEZ

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

Letters to the editor can be sent to editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

LAVC Events

Feb. 25 - April 15
Monday - Thursday
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 6 - 9 p.m.
"No Laughing Matter: Art and Humor in Southern California (a Modest Sampling)"
Exhibition presented by the LAVC Art Gallery
(Art Gallery) FREE
Contact: (818) 778-5536

March
Thursday, 4th
"Careers in Education" Career Speaker Workshop Series
Presented by the Career/Transfer Center
@ 1 - 2 p.m. (Monarch Hall)
Contact: Career/Transfer Center (818) 947-2646

Groundhog Job Shadow Day Orientation Meeting
Sponsored by Career/Transfer Center
@ 1 - 2 p.m. or 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. (Career/Transfer Center - Administration 126)
Contact: Career/Transfer Center (818) 947-2646

Saturday, 6th
2010 Labor Scholars Retreat
Sponsored by LAVC & the Dolores Huerta Labor Institute
@ 8 am- 4 pm (Monarch Hall); RSVP
Contact: Kenadi Le
www.dhli.org/event/2010-labor-scholars-retreat

Wednesday, 10th
ASU Club Day
Sponsored by the Associated Student Union
@ 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Monarch Square)
Contact: Associated Student Union (818) 778-5516

! THINK TRANSFER

Updating UC Fall 2010 Applications
Online: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/appupdate

March
Wednesday, 3rd
Undecided Major/Career Workshop
@ 1 - 2 p.m.

Thursday, 4th
CSU Los Angeles Rep
@ 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Undecided Major/Career Workshop
@ 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Monday, 8th
CSU Northridge Rep.
@ 9 - 7 p.m.
How to Transfer Workshop
@ 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 9th
UC Santa Barbara Rep.
@ 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

How to Transfer Workshop
@ 1 - 2 p.m.

All events held in the Career/Transfer Center (Administration 126) unless otherwise indicated.

For Sign-up and further inofrmation
Call 818.947.2646.

ASTRONOMY CLASS TAKES A LOOK AT THE MYTH OF 2012

Valley College astronomy students are treated to a lecture by the Center of Inquiry.

DAVID MOTTE
STAFF WRITER

ANGELA BEACH | VALLEY STAR

LOOKING BEYOND - Professor Falk watches a collision of two spiral galaxy's colliding. Falk teaches six classes per week at the Valley campus and plays host to many Planetarium shows and community outreach events.

The year 2012 is just around the corner. For centuries, countless scientific discoveries and advances have been ascertained, bringing the world into a new age of enlightenment. Recently, however, there seems to have been a rising number in those concerned about the ancient Mayan prediction that the world will end in the next two years.

The Valley College Astronomy Group invited the executive director of the Center for Inquiry, James Underdown, to speak to students under the planetarium dome on Sunday, regarding the suppositions of the 2012 judgment day theories.

"I spend a lot of my time trying to tell the difference between fact and fiction," said Underdown. "We've heard quite a bit about the 2012 claims and they require great patience. Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence."

The goal of the Center for Inquiry is to encourage a secular society based on science, reason, freedom, and humanist value. The institution maintains that scientific method and reasoning should be used in examining claims of pseudoscience and religion, believing in evidence-based reasoning while rejecting mysticism and blind faith.

"I don't believe in anything supernatural," Underdown said. "I am advocating for an objective truth."

The supposed 2012 phenomenon is comprised of various eschatological beliefs that a cataclysmic event will occur on the 21st or 23rd day of December of 2012. It is said to be the end date of a 5,125-year-long cycle in the Mayan Long Count calendar, in which certain astronomical alignments and various numerological formulae related to these dates have been proposed, but not accepted by mainstream scholarship.

"We normally have really hardcore, really advanced astronomical lectures," said Valley Astronomy Professor David Falk. "But I have so many people, including instructors, who are sincerely worried the world is going to end in two years."

Though the fire has been exceedingly fueled over the last few years with the likes of such films as "2012" and a plethora of books and television shows on the subject, scientists have yet to gather any scientific evidence that the 2012 phenomenon will occur. As for the Mayans, Maya sources are scarce and contradictory, which suggests there is no universal agreement among them about what the date means.

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MIKE ELMAN | VALLEY STAR

JUST FOR LAUGHS - Art patrons enjoy last Thursdays "No Laughing Matter" art show at the campus' art gallery located in the art building.

LAUGH YOUR ART OFF

The Valley College art gallery opened an exhibit with humor as the central theme.

CARL ROBINETTE
STAFF WRITER

Excitement charged the air of the art gallery at Valley College Wednesday night as a crowd of about 200 filled the room for the opening of "No Laughing Matter: Art and Humor in Southern California (a modest sampling)," a new art exhibit with a focus on funny.

In spite of a rain shower, the opening was quite a success according to Dean of Fine, Performing and Media Arts Dennis Reed who curated the show. It is described by Reed as "serious art that uses humor."

The evening program kicked off with a performance from folk band Triple Chicken foot, and a less than funny roast of Reed.

"It's an eclectic mix," said Valley student Kara Jenney about the art. "There's something for everyone."

Reed credits one of the featured pieces in the show, a painting by Walter Gabrielson, as his inspiration for designing a show that revolves around humor. The painting is owned by the campus and hangs in Reed's office.

"I've always admired his work," said Reed referring to Gabrielson. "His work is based on humor. I thought that would be interesting because we tend to think of serious art as serious."

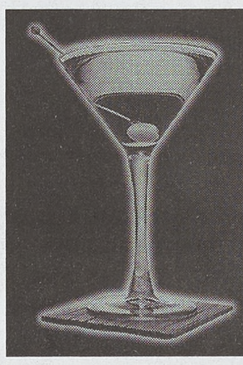
Gabrielson died in 2008 from complications with anemia according to Waltergabrielson.com. While the show does not revolve simply around his work, it is a fitting tribute to the late artist.

"It's first class," said Gabrielson's widow, Nancy Goldberg, about the show. "It should be well received."

The show features everything from abstract oil paintings to less traditional instillations such as a whole chicken carcass in a coffin. The humor is blunt satire in some works, and subtle whimsy in others.

"You don't always have to be straight faced when you look at art," said Reed.

The show is open and free to the public now until April 15 in the art gallery on campus.



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A GOURMET EDUCATION ON THE LOS ANGELES BISTRO

Bistro 561 offers excellent food and cheap prices from chefs in training.

KELLY DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

With all the well-known restaurants in Los Angeles, Bistro 561 is a bit off the radar, but if you are looking for a $30 gourmet meal for two in a romantic setting that is walking distance from the theaters, shopping, and nightlife of Old Town Pasadena, then it is worth stepping off the beaten path and into one of Pasadena's hidden gems.

Bistro 561 is not your ordinary eatery. It is a teaching restaurant that belongs to Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Los Angeles, and while it is overseen by professionals, it is staffed entirely by its students, with proceeds and tips going toward the school's scholarship fund. The school's culinary students run the kitchen, and its hospitality and restaurant management students hold down the fort in the dining room.

"It is important to us that the students are really running the place," said instructor and dining room manager, Robert Soriano. "If they learn to run a restaurant and really take pride in their work in a supportive environment like this, they are more likely to go into the work force confident managers with a sharp eye for good customer service."

The food at Bistro 561 is as delightful as the service. The menu is overseen by the chef-instructors at Le Cordon Bleu, but each and every item from the bread basket to the dessert is prepared by the school's advanced students. Among the outstanding items on the menu are the braised short rib, which sits on top of a rich buttery polenta and the bacon wrapped shrimp appetizer, served stuffed with apples and set playfully on top of a savory funnel cake. The goat cheese-stuffed lamb burger incorporates traditional Greek flavors in an exciting modern way. The dessert menu is fairly limited, consisting of just three items, but each dessert is a solid rendition of an old favorite: an apple tart, a crème brûlée, and an outstanding molten chocolate cake. The a-la-carte dining is a bit on the pricey side, but the two-for-$30 dinner is always available, delicious, and reasonable.

The students running the dining room are extremely accommodating and willing to work with diners to make sure they get a meal that is well-suited to their needs, be their allergies or Vegetarianism. While there is only one vegetarian entrée on the menu per night, there are enough vegetarians and appetizers to compose a delicious meal, and the students help do this to great effect.

The emphasis on excellent customer service and well-executed food makes sure that diners at Bistro 561 leave happy, and well fed. While it is obvious at times that the chefs and students are still students, the warm enthusiasm of each and every person in the restaurant is apparent. This enthusiasm, combined with tasty food at reasonable prices, make for an exciting dining experience.

ANGELA BEACH | VALLEY STAR

(LEFT) CHOCOLATE WONDERS - A students work of chocolate art adorns the entrance of the busteling Bistro 561 in the Pasadena "training restaurant". The Restaurant is a training site for the famous California School of Culinary Arts Le Cordon Bleu program.

(TOP) NIGHT OUT - Eric Osley (Center) Was the former Head Chef at Bistro 561. He is joined by friends Scott Wallace (right), Noah Lutz (far right) and Joseph Gunicic (far Left) for a night out on Friday February 26th.

TWO CENTS FROM SPENCE

IT'S OSCAR TIME

Valley Star editor analyzes the truths and misconceptions about this year's Oscars.

JOSH SPENCE

The 82nd Academy Award will be held on Sunday, Mar. 7, 2010. A new wrinkle to the format will be the Best Picture category containing 10 nominees as opposed to the usual five. This is a great boon to other great films that may not be serious contenders but will at least get some of the recognition that they deserve. While there isn't enough room to cover all the categories, here is some analysis of the biggest categories.

Best Picture:
Will Win: "Avatar"
Should Win: "Avatar"
Honorable Mention: "District 9"

"Avatar" is one of those few films that, no matter what everyone says about it, no matter how contradictory, is true in some facet. Yes, it can be an overwrought take on the plight of the Native Americans. Yes, the fact that the people are blue and ten feet tall with a USB connector for a ponytail can be hard to swallow. It also happens to be a landmark film worthy of "The Jazz Singer" status. This film's power is not only in the way movies are made but how the audience sees it, which makes "Avatar" Oscar-worthy.

Honorable Mention goes to "District 9" for creating a gripping and heartfelt film about another minority (although not as heavy handed as "Avatar") that will go down as one of the best sci-fi stories in the past 20 years.

Best Animated Picture:
Will Win: "Up"
Should Win: "Coraline"
Honorable Mention: "The Fantastic Mr. Fox"

It appears that Pixar will continue its stranglehold on the category, although there isn't as much creative distance between Pixar and the other guys as there used to be. "Up" is a moving journey of an old man, both in the literal and emotional sense, and is the leading contender to win the award. But there are more deserving films this year. For all the credit "Avatar" is receiving for immersing the audience in a brave new world, "Coraline" was the true pioneer. Henry Selick transported the audience into a lush and atmospheric world of Tim Burton proportion that James Cameron just cannot come close to. It seems unfair that "Avatar" will go down in the history books while "Coraline" becomes an afterthought. Honorable Mention goes to "Fantastic Mr. Fox" for being a sleeper hit filled with the Wes Anderson cool and A-list talent.

Best Actor:
Will Win: Jeff Bridges
Should Win: Sharlto Copley
Honorable Mention: George Clooney

Jeff Bridges didn't play the role of Bad Blake so much as he was Bad Blake in "Crazy Heart." It's this complete transformation that Bridges does time and time again, be it "The Dude" or "The Iron Monger" that has made him an actor's actor. For an outstanding actor like Bridges to finally get his due is one thing, but for Sharlto Copley to not even get nominated is a huge slight. Considering the huge transformation his character makes with all the political impact and statement inherited, including the fact that all of Copley's dialogue and emotion was improvised, I just don't see how he doesn't get an award. Clooney makes the list if only because he's George Clooney.

Read the complete story online.
Email Josh Spence at
co-editor@lavalleystar.com
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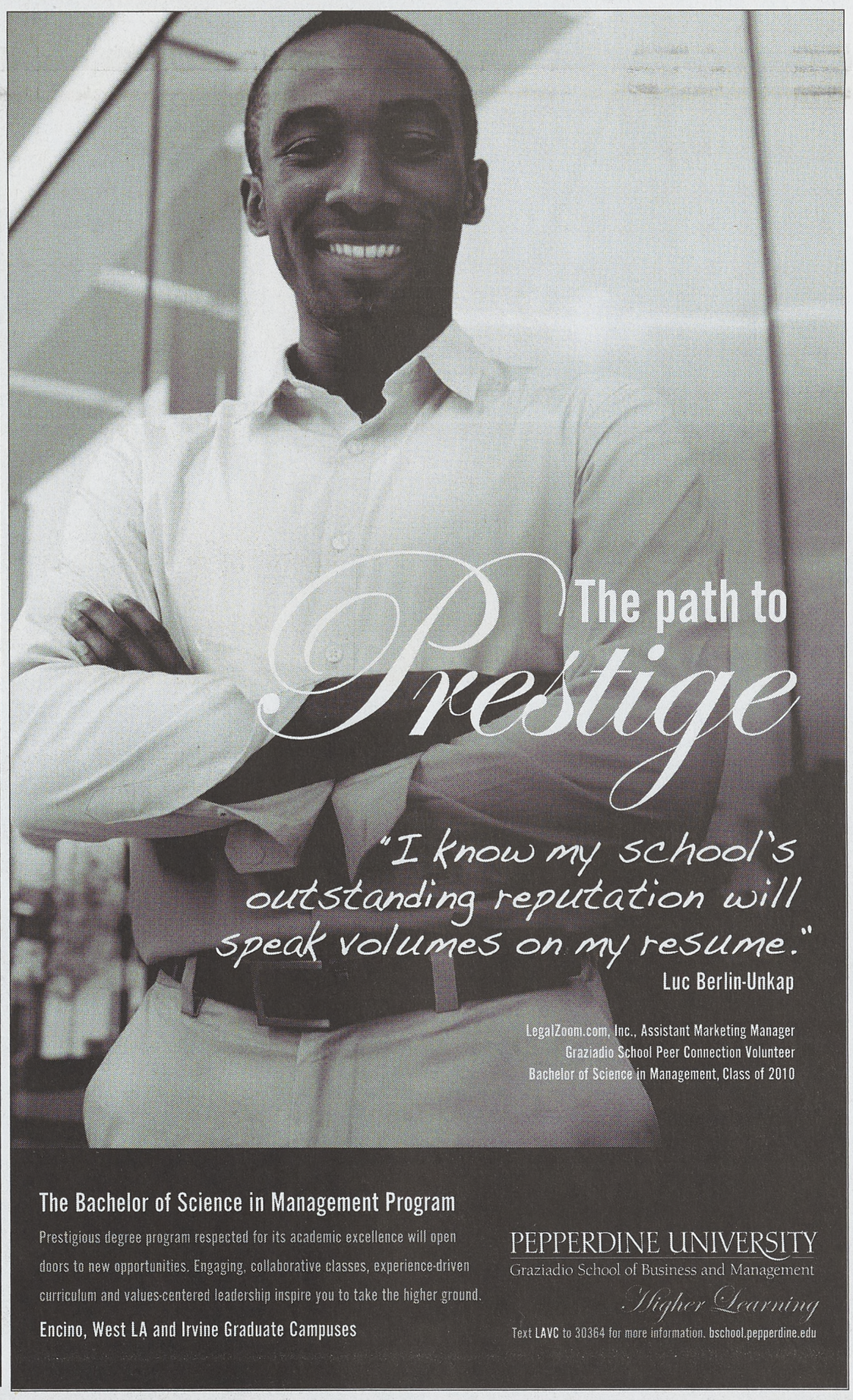
valleystar@lavalleystar.com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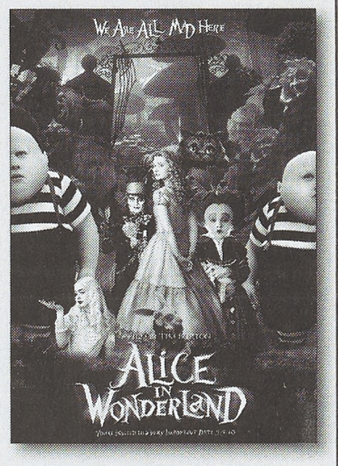
OPENING THIS WEEKEND



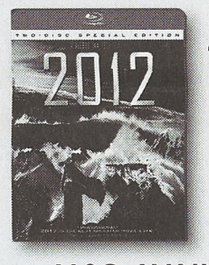
TIM BURTON'S
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
JOHNNY DEPP, MIA WASIKOWSKA & HELENA BONHAM CARTER

TOP 5 PLAYING:

- *Shutter Island:* $22.6M+
- *Cop Out:* $18.2M+
- *The Crazies:* $16M+
- *Avatar:* $13.6M+
- *The Lightning Thief:* $9.5M+

MEDIA RELEASES

DVD



2012

ALSO AVAILABLE:

- *Where the Wild Things Are*
- *Ponyo*
- *Gentlemen Broncos*
- *The Private Lives of Pippa Lee*

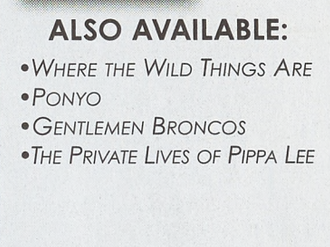
MUSIC

RAHEEM DEVAUGHN
The Love and War Masterpeace

ALSO AVAILABLE:

- Easton Corbin - *Easton Corbin*
- Jason Derulo - *Jason Derulo*
- Danny Gokey - *My Best Days*
- Lifehouse - *Smoke & Mirrors*

CONCERTS & THEATRE



- *Bon Jovi:* Mar. 4 Staples Center
- *L.A. Philharmonics:* Mar. 6-7 Walt Disney Concert Hall
- *Cats:* Mar. 9-14 Pantages Theatre
- *Dream Girls:* Mar. 2-7 Ahmanson Theatre
- *The Subject was Roses:* Mar. 2-6 Mark Taper Forum
- *Much Ado About Nothing:* Mar. 10 Mark Taper Forum
- *Gevorkian Dance Academy:* Mar. 9 Nokia Theatre Live
- *The Female of the Species:* Mar. 5-7 Geffen Playhouse

THE FINALS BELONG TO THE TIGERS... AGAIN

Monarchs lose 94-59 in the second round of the playoffs Saturday, against the 2009 CCCAA champion Tigers .

LUCAS THOMPSON
MANAGING EDITOR

SCOTT MITCHELL | VALLEY STAR

RUNNING AWAY WITH THE GAME- Valley Guard Javion Garner outsprints two Mira Costa defenders last Wednesday night, in the first round of playoffs.

After defeating Mira Costa College last Wednesday 74-55 in the first round of the Southern California Regionals, the Monarchs chance at the finals would be decided by none other than the 2009 state champion, the Riverside Tigers (23-6).

Watching from the stands, the blaring horns and deafening crowd drowned out the game itself at times; the noise, however, was not coming from the Valley offense. It wasn't until 3:26 had ticked off the clock that Valley would score its first points. The score left the Monarchs down 11-2, as they tried to fight through the full-court press and physical defense.

Gaining control of the game, the Monarchs' defense and quick-paced offense kept the Tigers out of the paint, forcing rushed shots and bad passes. The once 14-point lead acquired by the Tigers was cut to seven by back-to-back three pointers from Chris Lenik and Jerome Lowe.

Guard Daniel Redmon of the Tigers followed the two with three of his own and a quick jump shot in traffic to give the tigers a 38-24 lead with 1:45 left in the half. Although Valley shot a 40 percent from the field compared to the Tigers 36 percent, the Tiger's took 22 more shots, giving them a 42-26 lead at half.

"The main thing we wanted to work on was our intensity and our energy coming out the back with our pressure," Riverside Head Coach John Smith said after the game. "We noticed that L.A Valley didn't play as many players, so we wanted to wear down their guards and try and attack 'em from there."

The Tigers had five players score in double digits, led by center Jordan Richard who posted 19.

Energy from Chris Lenik and Javion Garner in the second half would not be enough to stop the opposing Tigers who took a 68-39 lead with 10:34 remaining in regulation. Redmon, who along with forward Kevin Bradshaw was announced 2010 Orange Empire Conference MVP, scored 8 of his 17 in the second half coupled with six assists in the game.

Scoring 52 of their 94 points in the second half, third-ranked Riverside defeated Valley 94-59. The victory moves them to the Southern California Regional Finals against number six, Saddleback, to decide which team will advance to the State Tournament.

Valley finishes the season ranked 14 in the region with a 14-14 record for the season.

ANALYZE THIS

THE FAIR-WEATHER FANS OF VALLEY COLLEGE

Be a band wagon fan with your Major League Baseball team; always support your college.

LUCAS THOMPSON

The crowd is out of control. As the Valley College football team takes the field to square off against the Bakersfield Renegades at home, the team can barely hear the play calls amongst the 6,804 fans that engulf the stands. If you have recently attended a Valley College sporting event you know this portrait is not a recent one. In fact, this took place in 1969, according to Sports Information Director Dale Beck.

"I think it might be the teams are losing," computer science major Jason Berlin said of the declining attendance of Valley athletics. "I actually didn't know they had a football team until I saw it in the newspaper."

Granted, athletics at Valley on average have struggled over the past few years, but is that a reason not to support them? As I fight through the walkways and hallways of the Valley campus I am bombarded by club day fliers and ASU campaign ads. I haven't seen any ASU members attending games. Maybe the Associated Student Union does not incorporate the student-athletes on campus...that is, until they are up for election.

Surely the student body would take pride in the athletes who work countless hours to compete and represent our school...right?

"We try not to cooperate with anything because we don't have time," civil engineering major Greg Yahyayan said of himself and his brother. "We just try to get our stuff done."

Obviously all faults cannot lie on the student body. It takes success, it takes winning, but it also takes support.

"The kids would love to have people there, it makes the games more exciting, it (gives them) a chance to show off their hard work," said Valley football Head Coach Jim Fenwick. "But you got to have one before the other, you have to have a good product on the field, if you do well and win, everything else will follow."

So winning it is. When Valley sports start winning, all the students will follow. Such was not the case last Wednesday as the Valley basketball team defeated Mira Costa College in the first round of playoffs. Nor was it for the women's softball team, which has won their last four games in a row. Apparently it's a community college epidemic. Bakersfield, which at one time hosted up to 20,000 people at their football games, has also noticed a decline in attendance—once again due to losing—according to Beck.

So Monarch clubs—if you didn't know, this is our mascot—keep the fliers coming; ASU, continue to ask for votes and donations; and the Valley athletics will continue to do what they have always done—work hard. The droughts will cease, the championships will come and eventually you and those to follow will engulf the stands of Valley once more.

"Any exposure that we can muster up to recognize any of our clubs on campus is great," Fenwick said.

Can your club say that about athletics?

Email Lucas Thompson at *l.thompson@lavalleystar.com*
Send general comments to *valleystar@lavalleystar.com*

A Breath of Life

Health and physical education instructor Patty Melody stresses the importance of learning about CPR.

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

A Valley College instructor breathes life into an endangered student, and expresses the importance of CPR training, especially in sports.

CPR has saved countless lives. Saturday Feb. 20, it saved the life of a Valley student, who—ironically—was attending a CPR training class when he collapsed due to an asthma attack. The student lost consciousness and required emergency help.

Patty Melody, physical education and health instructor, was teaching her Health 3 class Saturday, when alarmed teens reported their friends' nearly fatal condition. Melody, who is a certified basic rescuer, immediately alerted authorities and began CPR.

"I really want to commend the campus sheriffs, they did a really great job," said Melody with a smile. "And express the importance and benefits of being CPR certified."

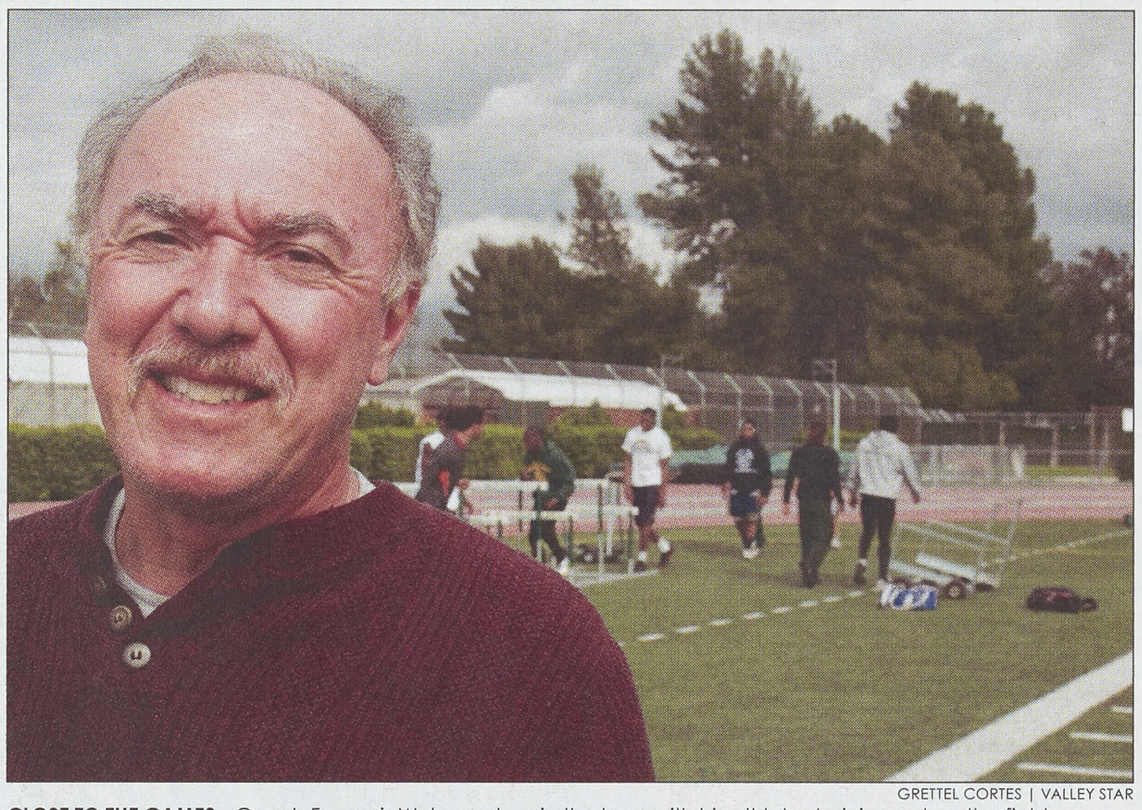
CPR training is not mandatory in any state; however, it is highly encouraged by many employers, schools, and tradesmen as beneficial knowledge. Also construction and government jobs train employees in CPR. Many sports medicine, coaches and sports instructors are taking it upon themselves to be CPR certified. With so much possibility for injury, coaches need the leg up. In California, high school coaches are required to be CPR certified.

Michael Booker, a high school coach in El Cerrito, helped save the life of one of his players after the teen had a seizure and quit breathing during practice. "Honestly, I think God was looking out for him. It was the perfect situation," said Booker. "It was the right people at the right time to help him stay alive."

If you are aware of an illness it's important to take medications as prescribed; carry needed medications with you; wear a medical bracelet; and talk to friends, family and co-workers about an action plan in case of emergency, especially if you are involved in sports. "It's important to be familiar with CPR, because you never know when you will need it," commented Captain Carlos Avina of Fire Station 102, which responded to Saturday's emergency call.

> "It's good to be familiar with CPR, because you never know when you will need it."
> - Captain Carlos Avina

If you are interested in CPR training and certification, Valley offers a Health 3 class every semester. The 15-hour class is taught over two Saturdays and additional classes are made available throughout the year for a fee of $30, which is donated to LAVC foundation. The classes are beneficial and the American Red Cross Certification is good for one year. Please contact Melody at (818) 947-2907 or e-mail her at melodype@lavc.edu.



GRETTEL CORTES | VALLEY STAR

CLOSE TO THE GAMES - Coach Francois Wolman stays in the loop with his athletes training out on the field.

Wolman Emphasizes Academics First

Men's track and field coach Francois Wolman is equally concerned about performance in the classroom.

GIOVANNI GARCIA
STAFF WRITER

What makes men's track and field coach Francois Wolman different from others? He attended Fairfax High School and won two track and field city championships. Coach Wolman was such a gifted athlete that he was given a full scholarship to Oregon State. But he makes sure that he challenges his athletes to succeed in academics as he does on the track.

"Give me a fast guy but no academics, versus a slow one with academics ... I'll choose the slow one." Wolman said. The same way he pushed himself is the same method he uses toward his athletes. Andy Salig, a former athlete of Wolman's, is one of his success stories who is now attending Portland State.

Wolman has a history of academics receiving his masters in psychology from Pepperdine University, and attended UCLA for grad school. He eventually got his French degree from CSUN. Coach Wolman is now in his 11th year at Valley after transferring from Santa Monica College as an assistant head coach.

Wolman's strategy also forces his athletes to at least be taking nine academic units in order to compete. "He works hard with the students in the class," Athletic Director Deidra Stark said. Wolman is also a part-time French teacher here at Valley, teaching French 1,2,8 and 10 and he also teaches French at Canyon High school.

The Athletic department recognizes Wolman's dedication and hard work with his athletes. "Exceptional track and field coach," Sports Information Director Dale Beck said. But even with the new season at hand he remembers the morals that got him where he is today. Whether coaching or teaching, Wolman will put in the effort to help anyone that is willing to take it.

"I put my degree to work, my goal is to push the student athlete to be a better person and to push them to the next level," Wolman said.